

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 30, and 32 - 40 were noted as pending in the application; and claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 35 - 40 were allowed, claim 25 was rejected, and claims 26 - 30 and 32 - 34 were objected to. By this amendment, claim 25 has been canceled, and claims 26 - 28 and 32 - 34 have been amended. Thus, claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40 are pending in the application. The rejections and objections of the Office Action are discussed below.

**Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 16, 25, 26, 35, and 37 in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,216,064 to Pippin**

In items 2.1 and 2.2, on pages 2 - 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 16, 25, 26, 35, and 37 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7,216,064 to Pippin. While the Applicant does not agree with the double patenting rejection, the Applicant wishes to expedite prosecution toward allowance and therefore submits herewith a terminal disclaimer over the 7,216,026 Pippin patent. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**Rejection of Claim 25 under 35 USC § 102**

In items 3.1 - 3.3, on pages 4 - 5 of the Office Action, claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Nakagawa, Kokai Patent Application HEI 2[1990]-83720, published March 23, 1990. While the Applicant does not agree that the Nakagawa reference is prior art that teaches each of the elements recited in Claim 25, the Applicant wishes to expedite the application toward allowance. Accordingly, Claim 25 is being canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicated in item 4, on page 5 of the Action, that claims 26 - 30 and 32 - 34 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

claims. Claims 26, 32, and 34 have been amended herein to independent form, and now include all the limitations of independent base claim 25. Claims 27 - 30 and 33 depend from amended, now independent claims 26 and 32. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicated in item 5, on page 5 of the Action, that claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 35 - 40 are allowable over the prior art of record.

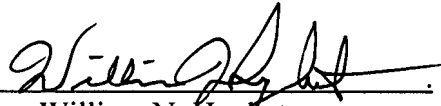
**Summary**

It is submitted that each of the rejections and objections of the Office Action have been addressed and that all pending claims, namely claims 1 - 4, 7 - 19, 22 - 24, 26 - 30, and 32 - 40, are deemed to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, to our Deposit Account No. 50-4047.

If any fees are required in connection with this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 50-4047.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bingham, McCutchen, L.L.P.

By:   
William N. Hugnet  
Reg. No. 44,481

2020 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Telephone: (202) 373-6158  
Facsimile: (202) 373-6001

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